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Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
DHA-02 TRSE-00 IO-13 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 AID-05 OMB-01 /071 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 090555

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, NU

SUBJECT: HEARINGS BEFORE SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREIGN OPERATIONS, HOUSE APPROPRIATION COMMITTEE, APRIL 21, 1977

1. THE FOLLOWING PRO-GON PRIVATE WITNESSES TESTIFIED TODAY BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREIGN OPERATIONS, HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: CARLOS DUBON; ARISTIDES SOMARRIBA; GUSTAVO WILSON; NORBERTO HERRERA; WILLIAM DONOR MARIHE, AND DENNIS GALLO. TWO OTHER ANTI-GON WITNESSES, FATHER MIGUEL D'ESCOTO FROM NEW YORK (MARYKNOLL PRIEST) AND JULIO MOLINA, ALSO APPEARED. EVEN THOUGH CONGRESSMAN MURPHY REQUESTED THIS HEARING, HE WAS NOT PRESENT. SEVILLA SACASA WAS IN THE AUDIENCE.

2. THE HEARINGS BEGAN AT 10:00 A.M. AND LASTED UNTIL 12:30 P.M. THERE WERE THREE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS PRESENT: CONGRESSMEN LONG (D. MD), KOCH (D. N.Y.) AND YOUNG (R. FLA.)
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EACH OF THE PRO-GON WITNESSES WERE GIVEN 3 MINUTES TO SUMMARIZE HIS STATEMENT. THE PRO-GON WITNESSES WHO WERE POORLY PREPARED AND EMOTIONAL IN THEIR DEFENSE OF THE SOMOZA GOVERNMENT, WERE UNABLE TO PRESENT A COORDINATED PICTURE OF THEIR VIEWS. THE OTHER TWO WITNESSES WERE GIVEN TEN MINUTES EACH. FATHER D'ESCOTO WAS WELL BRIEFED, ARTICULATE AND INTRODUCED A FAIRLY EXTENSIVE STATEMENT

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(WILL BE SENT BY POUCH). HIS SUMMARY WAS EFFECTIVE.
MOLINA DESCRIBED IN SPANISH THE PROBLEMS HE HAS ENCOUNTERED AS A MEMBER OF THE NICARAGUAN CONGRESS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION IN LAUNCHING A FULL FLEDGED INVESTIGATION AND HIS PERSONAL VIEWS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THAT COUNTRY.

3. COMMITTEE QUESTIONS AND WITNESS' ANSWERS PROVED TO BE DISTRESSING AND EMBARRASSING TO GON. PRO-GON WITNESSES WERE UNPERSUASIVE IN DEFENSE OF SOMOZA REGIME AND DID NOT COUNTERACT BY PRESENTING EVIDENCE DENYING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. KOCH PROCEEDED, USING PROSECUTORIAL STYLE, TO PREPARE TRAPS FOR EACH PRO-GON WITNESS. HE DREW ON THE PASTORAL LETTER, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT, CAPUCHIN LETTER, DEPARTMENT'S STATEMENT, NEW YORK TIMES, TIME MAGAZINE AND D'ESCOTO AND MOLINA'S STATEMENTS TO SHOW THAT THERE HAD BEEN HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. LONG STATED THAT THE PREPONDERANCE OF THE EVIDENCE WAS AGAINST PRO-GON WITNESSES AND SOMOZA GOVERNMENT.

4. KOCH INTRODUCED FOR THE RECORD A COPY OF HIS LETTERS TO SOMOZA AND CHAMORRO AND ASSERTED THAT CHAMORRO'S ABSENCE WAS A FURTHER INDICATION OF GON'S POLITICAL MANUEVERS UNDER LEGAL DISGUISE TO PREVENT CHAMORRO FROM TESTIFYING. HE ALSO INTRODUCED FOR THE RECORD A COPY OF A LETTER FROM CAPUCHIN SOCIETY, DENYING DEPARTMENT'S STATEMENT THAT CAPUCHINS THEMSELVES MAY HAVE OVER ESTIMATED THE NUMBER OF PERSONS KILLED IN VARILLAL AND KASKITA.
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ACCORDING TO THIS LETTER THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION HAS NOT IMPROVED IN NICARAGUA.

5. KOCH AND LONG STRONGLY INDICATED THAT NO U.S. FUNDS SHOULD BE AVAILABLE TO GON FOR REPRESSIVE TACTICS. KOCH SAID, "I DO NOT WANT U.S. DOLLARS TO CONTINUE DOING WHAT THE PASTORAL LETTER ALLEGES THEY DO." NO MENTION WAS MADE OF ECONOMIC AID.
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Message Attributes

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Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, US CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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SAS ID: 2732574
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Subject: HEARINGS BEFORE SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREIGN OPERA- TIONS, HOUSE APPROPRIATION COMMITTEE, APRIL 21, 1977
TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, PINS, NU
To: MANAGUA
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